

Appl. No.: 10/715,162
Amdt. dated 12/19/2007
Reply to Office action of October 5, 2007.

REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action dated October 5, 2007. The Official Action rejected independent Claims 1, 11, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the international publication WO 02/057959 A2 by Rothmuller *et al.* (“*Rothmuller*”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,732,184 to Chao *et al.* (“*Chao*”).

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for extending to Applicants’ representative the courtesy of a telephone interview, which interview was conducted on December 13, 2007. During the interview, Applicants’ representative and the Examiner discussed *Rothmuller* and *Chao* and the claims of the present application. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1-14, 16, and 17. As explained below, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references, and reconsideration of the claims in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer-readable program instructions embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program instructions comprising:
 - first instructions configured, when executed, to generate a media view that provides access to digital media files and associates digital media files with a predefined time; and
 - second instructions configured, when executed, to generate a time bar that divides time into segments of unit time, each segment of unit time having a respective length along the time bar that depends upon the amount of media files associated with the respective segment of unit time.

Amended independent Claims 11, 13, and 16 include recitations of “a time bar that divides time into segments of unit time, each segment of unit time having a respective length along the time bar that depends upon the amount of media files associated with the respective segment of unit time,” albeit in slightly different language.

Rothmuller is directed to a method and computer program product for “storing, cataloguing, managing, organizing, finding, and displaying objects such as digital images.” “The invention includes methods for associating (“tagging”) fields of text and numeric data

(“metadata”) with individual objects such as images or photos,” and organizing the objects based on their tags.

Chao is directed to an apparatus and method of editing video sequences. The method includes the steps of displaying a timeline of a video sequence on a timeline on a monitor of an editing computer, placing a movable cursor at a selected location along the timeline, displaying a miniaturized version of a video frame corresponding to the selected location of the timeline adjacent the timeline, and editing the video sequence based upon the displayed video frame.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Rothmuller* nor *Chao* teaches “a time bar that divides time into segments of unit time, each segment of unit time having a respective length along the time bar that depends upon the amount of media files associated with the respective segment of unit time,” as recited, in one form or another, in each of independent Claims 1, 11, 13, and 16. Rather, both *Rothmuller* and *Chao* disclose timelines dividing time into uniform sized segments of unit time. Applicants note that the Examiner generally agreed with this characterization of *Rothmuller* and *Chao* during the interview of December 13, 2007. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 11, 13, and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over *Rothmuller* and *Chao*, taken either alone or in combination.

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Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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